

The Validity of the Kettle Test Among People with Suspected Dementia: A Functional – Cognitive Screening Test

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In recent years there is a growing need to develop cognitive evaluation tools with ecological validity that are suited for the geriatric population and will help to predict daily functioning. **The aim** of the present research was to examine the validity of the Kettle Test among elderly with suspected dementia who live in the community. Participants included 51 elderly (23 men, 28 women) aged 60 and older (average age 77.8 yrs) who live in the community and were referred to the geriatric evaluation unit either by the family physician or by self-referral. **Results** of the study showed low to medium correlations between the Kettle Test and conventional cognitive tests: the MMSE and the clock drawing test. Moreover, the percentage of people diagnosed with cognitive impairment according to the Kettle Test was significantly higher

than the percentage of people diagnosed through the conventional cognitive tests. A significant correlation was found between the scores of the Kettle Test and IADL items regarding financial and medication management. In contrast, the participants' level of education and gender did not correlate with the Kettle Test scores. The study's findings indicate that the Kettle Test provides important information for the identification of difficulties in daily life functioning of elderly community-dwellers with minimal cognitive decline, independent of their level of education or gender. The results of this test appears to be a better indicator of the functional implications of cognitive deficits than the existing conventional cognitive measures.